

Community Services Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Group Home?

A group home is a home located in the community where people live with the help of trained staff. There are typically 4 residents and the home is staffed 24 hours a day by a resident manager and direct care staff. Residents may have their own room or share rooms, and share facilities such as laundry, bathroom, kitchen and common living areas. Although most group homes provide long-term care, some individuals eventually acquire the necessary skills to move to more independent living situations. Group Homes are provided oversight and are licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Licensing (OOL).

What will individuals do during the day?

There are several day activity options for individuals depending on their need.

Traditional day services are comprised of:

- Adult Training Centers -The purpose of the Adult Training is to advance, promote and administer training and habilitation of adult persons with developmental disabilities. This training may be related to supported employment and work-related activities. The goal is to help individuals become more productive, self-reliant and independent within the community and in the work place and to enhance their self confidence by teaching new skills at a pace related to their level of ability.
- Sheltered Workshops - The main focus of the sheltered workshop is to support individuals to develop skills necessary to become productive employees and to gain valuable work experience. Skills learned are used in a variety of jobs, to help individuals work in enclave or competitive employment. In addition to work skills, the individuals in the sheltered workshop are able to learn skills related to:
 - personal hygiene;
 - responsibility for one's actions;
 - how to work as a team; and/or
 - appropriate behavior.

Medical Adult Day Programs - Are privately-run programs which provide activities, medical supervision and social support for individuals who need medical services during the day. This type of program is paid for through Medicaid and individuals must meet the criteria to attend.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) - Provides services that enable individuals with disabilities to find jobs or keep their existing jobs such as vocational

counseling and guidance, placement services, college training and supported employment. For more information, please visit their website at <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/dvrs/>

What sorts of trainings will staff in the community receive?

All Community Staff are required to have “New Jersey’s Pre-Service Trainings” which include, but are not limited to:

- Overview of Developmental Disabilities;
- Preventing Abuse and Neglect;
- Medication Overview;
- CPR/First Aid; and
- Danielle’s Law.

In addition to this list of trainings each provider agency provides regular topic specific, individual specific and hands on skills training.

Can individuals who have profound disabilities and need everything done for them by others be cared for in the community?

Yes, each individual has a team that will determine what supports and services are needed to ensure a person-centered approach to their overall health and safety needs. This will be documented in the Plan of Care and monitored regularly by agency staff and case managers.

What if individuals need skilled medical care?

Many community agencies have nurses on staff to provide consultation and oversight. Individuals’ needs are evaluated and appropriate supports are put in to place to ensure health and safety needs are met.

For those individuals moving, where are the community residences located?

In most cases, the group homes will be newly developed residences. In order to facilitate the development of them, the Division is actively collecting the geographic preferences of the individuals at VDC, as well as their families/guardians.

How can families make a decision about group home selection if the residences are not available at this time?

The Division recognizes that some families will want to see what a group home has to offer. Therefore, tours of existing group homes in the community are useful. While these will most likely not be the homes individuals ultimately will move to, they can be a resource in the decision making process.

Are families involved in the transition process?

Family members and guardians are an integral part of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) who is involved in all phases of the transition process. Individuals and families will have the support of the team throughout this process to answer any questions and provide help through the transition process.

What happens after an individual moves to the community?

After an individual moves to the community, the Division will closely monitor how the transition is going. Within two weeks of the individuals move, a representative from the DC will contact the manager of the new home to see how the person is adjusting. Case review visits will be conducted 30, 60, 90, 180 and 365 days after discharge and annually for two additional years. Through this process, any issues that may arise during transition will be identified and remedied. This is in addition to the regular outreach provided by the assigned case manager.

What sort of oversight is provided for group homes and other types of community homes?

There are several types of oversight provided to every group home.

Office of Licensing (OOL)

Through its licensing and regulatory process, the OOL supports the provision of a safe environment ensuring individuals receive services appropriately. Each group home is licensed annually or as needed.

DDD Community Case Manager

Case management services provide face-to-face visits as well as document and provide services oversight for individuals on monthly or quarterly basis.

DDD Office of Quality Management and Planning (OQMP)

The mission of the OQMP is to incorporate sustainable quality assurance and quality improvement principles of supports and services for individuals. The OQMP provides regular audits and technical support related to services delivered.

Internal Agency Quality Assurance

Agencies have their own quality assurance policies. Agency administration provides regular support and oversight to their community residences.